

Analyze the decision of the United States to enter World War II, including the nation's movement from a policy of isolationism to international involvement and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

TOTALITARIANISM

In totalitarian states, the government holds full power and does not recognize individual rights. These regimes were led by the following dictators:

Soviet Union	Italy	Germany	Japan
Stalin	Mussolini	Hitler	Tojo

MILITARISM Germany and Japan both launched aggressive wars against their neighbors.



Appeasement: Britain and France tried to “appease” Hitler by allowing him to invade neighboring countries

Poland

WWII began when Hitler invaded _____ in 1939. The German army’s *blitzkrieg* (lightning war) strategy was effective against French and British forces and France fell in just over a month. Britain was left to fight against Hitler alone. Germany attacked Britain by air in a three month battle known as the Battle of Britain.



Most Americans favored a policy of **Isolationism** that would keep the United States out of the European War. *(Buyer's Remorse from WWI)*

Neutrality Acts: Banned the sale of arms to *belligerent* nations

Although Americans wanted to stay out of the war, President Roosevelt (FDR) believed that the British were in need of our help. He wished for America to become the

“Arsenal of **Democracy**”



Photo by mr.smashy

1. **Cash** and **Carry** (1939)
Pay cash and take it with you.
2. **Destroyers** for **Bases** (1940)
U.S. gives Britain ships in return for naval bases
3. **Lend** - **Lease** (1941)
Britain can borrow our weapons since we're not using them!

Selective Service Act (1940): The first **Peacetime** draft in US history

The U.S. Enters the War

The United States placed an oil **Embargo** on Japan for launching aggressive warfare in Manchuria, China, and the Pacific.

Japan, seeing the embargo as a threat to its ability to maintain a navy, attacked the U.S. Pacific Fleet at **Pearl Harbor** on **December 7th**, 1941. The United States declared war on Japan the next day.



Axis PACT

After the U.S. declared war on Japan, Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S. in keeping with the **Axis Pact** – an alliance between the three nations. The United States responded by declaring war against Germany and Italy.